MODESTY BLAISE

by Peter O'Donnell and Jim Holdaway

• The Black Pearl 1125-1235

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
The BLACK PEARL
BY A STREAM IN NORTH BENGAL, A HOLY MAN MEDITATES UNDER A PIPUL TREE, AS HE HAS DONE FOR MANY DECADES
AND IN THE VILLAGE OF DHIRA, THREE MILES AWAY
FOLLOW THE TRAIL NORTH, LAMA — THERE BY THE STREAM YOU WILL FIND LAL, THE WISE ONE
1125

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE CHELA, THE DISCIPLE, SPEAKS HUMBLY...
I SERVE THE HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN IN A MATTER OF GREAT HEAVINESS—HIS ASTROLOGERS AND SEERS FORETELL THAT YOU ALONE CAN HELP HIM
THEY SEE BUT DARKLY... AND YOU ARE NOT YET SURE THAT I AM THE ONE YOU SEEK
TEST ME AS YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED, CHELA... SET FREE THE SNAKE, AND HAVE NO FEAR
YOU—YOU KNOW!
1126

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

A VENOMOUS KRAIT CURLS ABOUT THE ARM OF THE HOLY MAN, BUT DOES NOT STRIKE
AHH...
SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I HAVE KNOWN THIS DAY WOULD COME, CHELA
GO NOW TO THE VILLAGE AND WAIT IN COMFORT... I WILL CALL YOU TO ME WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE
FORGIVE MY WORDS, BUT I—I AM TROUBLED...
THE TEST PROVES THAT YOU ARE IN TRUTH THE WISE ONE WHO WILL AID MY MASTER—YET SUCH A TASK IS SURELY BEYOND ONE SO... SO OLD
1127

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU THINK THE TASK TOO HEAVY FOR THIS OLD, FRAIL BODY, AND IT IS TRUE — BUT AS I AM BOUND TO THE HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN BY THE WHEEL OF KARMA...
... SO THERE IS ONE WHO IS BOUND TO ME— ONE WITH A YOUNG STRONG BODY, TEMPERED AS A SWORD-BLADE, WITH A MIND AND WILL TO MAKE IRON SEEM AS SOFT BAMBOO...
IT IS MANY SEASONS SINCE THE BOND WAS FORGED, BUT SHE WILL COME TO ME BEFORE THE OLD MOON DIES
1128

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN LONDON... MODESTY BLAISE RETURNS FROM COVENT GARDEN WITH MARK SCOBIE, A FRIEND FROM DAYS GONE BY
WELL, DO YOU LIKE BEING SECONDED TO THE NEPALESE ARMY, MARK?
I'D RATHER TRAIN GURKHAS THAN ANY TROOPS, BUT IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A SPELL OF LEAVE
EVER BEEN THERE, MODESTY?
NOT TO NEPAL, THE CLOSEST I GOT TO IT WAS NORTH BENGAL... AND IT WAS A MIRACLE I EVER CAME OUT ALIVE
1129

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU IN BENGAL?
OH, I'LL TELL YOU SOME OTHER TIME— BY THE WAY, I EXPECT WE'LL FIND THAT WILLIE GARVIN HAS DROPPED IN AT THE PENT HOUSE
WILLIE? OH, DAMN...
WHY? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED HIM
I DO, HE'S A GREAT BLOKE... BUT HE'S A BLOKE, AND I LIKE YOU A WHOLE LOT BETTER, MODESTY
1130

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MARK... PLEASE DON'T GET SENTIMENTAL ABOUT ME
WHY NOT? WRONG TYPE FOR YOU?
NO, WE PROBABLY MATCH FOR TYPE... BUT I'M THE WRONG GIRL, YOU'RE PRETENDING I'M SOMEBODY ELSE
I... GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
FEMALE RADAR, I SUPPOSE
SORRY, I DIDN'T REALISE... BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?
1131

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WHO'S THE GIRL YOU'RE REALLY IN LOVE WITH, MARK?
OH... SOMEBODY I MET IN NEPAL, A REFUGEE FROM TIBET AFTER THE CHINESE TOOK OVER
ONE OF THOSE VERY BEAUTIFUL GIRLS YOU FIND NEAR THE SINKIANG BORDER ... THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH SHE WAS VERY LIKE YOU
WAS?
I'M AFRAID SO— BUT LET IT GO, WE DON'T WANT TO SPOIL A NICE EVENING
1132

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE'S IN MY WORKROOM. I CARVED A TURQUOISE HE PROMISED TO MOUNT AS A BROOCH FOR ME— SAY HALLO WHILE I MAKE COFFEE
GARVIN! WHY WERE YOU NOT AT CHOIR PRACTICE THIS EVENING, PRAY?
PLEASE SIR, ME VOICE 'AS GONE AND BROKE— I'VE BROUGHT A NOTE FROM MUM
'ALLO, MARK— WHERE'S THE PRINCESS?
MAKING COFFEE... HOW ARE YOU, WILLIE? MUST BE A COUPLE OF YEARS NOW
1133

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY CERTAINLY CARVES AN ELEGANT STONE... WHAT'S SHE GOING TO DO WITH THIS?
M'MM?
CHUNK OF AMBER— SHE COULD MAKE SOMETHING PRETTY STRIKING OF IT
SHE COULD, BUT SHE'D NEVER TAKE A CUTTER TO THAT — THERE'S A STORY TO IT
'OLD IT TO THE LIGHT AND YOU'LL SEE AN INSECT INSIDE, EMBEDDED IN THE AMBER— A GREEN BEETLE
1134

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

LET ME KNOW IF THE BEETLE STUCK IN THAT CHUNK OF AMBER DISAPPEARS
BEETLE?
WHAT BEETLE? IS THIS A GAG?
NO! LET'S 'AVE A LOOK, MARK!
COFFEE'S READY—
PRINCESS, IT'S 'APPENED— THE GREEN BEETLE'S GONE!
1135

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY STARES AT THE PIECE OF CLEAR AMBER...

LOOK, ARE YOU TWO PUTTING ME ON?

NO, MARK, I'VE HAD THIS FOUR YEARS NOW...

YOU COULD ALWAYS SEE A LITTLE SHINY GREEN BEETLE IN THE AMBER... BUT NOW IT'S GONE

LOOKS AS IF I'M WANTED, WILLIE

WANTED? WHO BY? WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

1136

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE GREEN BEETLE EMBEDDED IN THE PIECE OF AMBER HAS VANISHED

INSECTS IN AMBER DON'T JUST DISSOLVE...

NO—MAYBE IT WAS NEVER THERE, SOME KIND OF HALLUCINATION

BUT I'VE SEEN IT OFTEN IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS—SO HAS WILLIE

WHEN I FIRST PICKED THIS UP YOU TOLD ME TO LET YOU KNOW IF THE BEETLE DISAPPEARED...

...SO WHY DID YOU EVEN *THINK* IT COULD HAPPEN, WILLIE?

YOU'D BETTER TELL 'IM THE STORY, PRINCESS

1137

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THIS HAPPENED BACK IN '*The Network*' DAYS, MARK—WE FOUND THAT ONE OF OUR MEN HAD SET UP A RACKET ON HIS OWN ACCOUNT... A DIRTY ONE

HIS NAME WAS VAUDEN, AND HE RAN OUR SECTION IN CALCUTTA...

...BUT AS A SIDELINE HE WAS BUYING AND STEALING GIRLS FROM THE NORTHERN VILLAGES TO SELL IN THE VICE SPOTS OF THE BIG CITIES

1138

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I WAS MAKING A ROUTINE CHECK IN CALCUTTA AND I FOUND OUT ABOUT VAUDEN DEALING IN VICE...

SELLING GIRLS ISN'T A CAPITAL CRIME IN MOST PLACES, BUT IT WAS IN '*The Network*'—VAUDEN KNEW THAT, SO HE WENT ON THE RUN, AND I WENT AFTER HIM

IT TOOK ME TWELVE DAYS TO CATCH UP WITH HIM, AND BY THEN WE WERE NORTH OF DHIRA—NO ROAD, JUST A PONY TRAIL

1139

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU'D NEVER 'VE GOT 'URT IF YOU HADN'T GIVEN VAUDEN A BREAK, PRINCESS

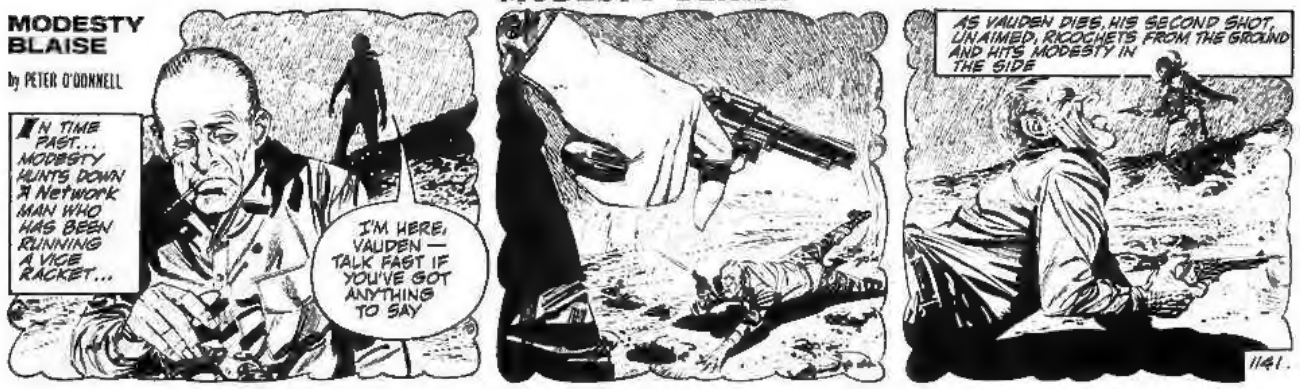
I DIDN'T GIVE HIM A BREAK—NOT THE WAY YOU MEAN IT, WILLIE

BUT IT WAS DARK, AND THE MAN CAMPING DOWN THERE OFF THE TRAIL JUST *MIGHT* HAVE BEEN SOMEBODY ELSE...

I HAD TO MAKE SURE, SO...

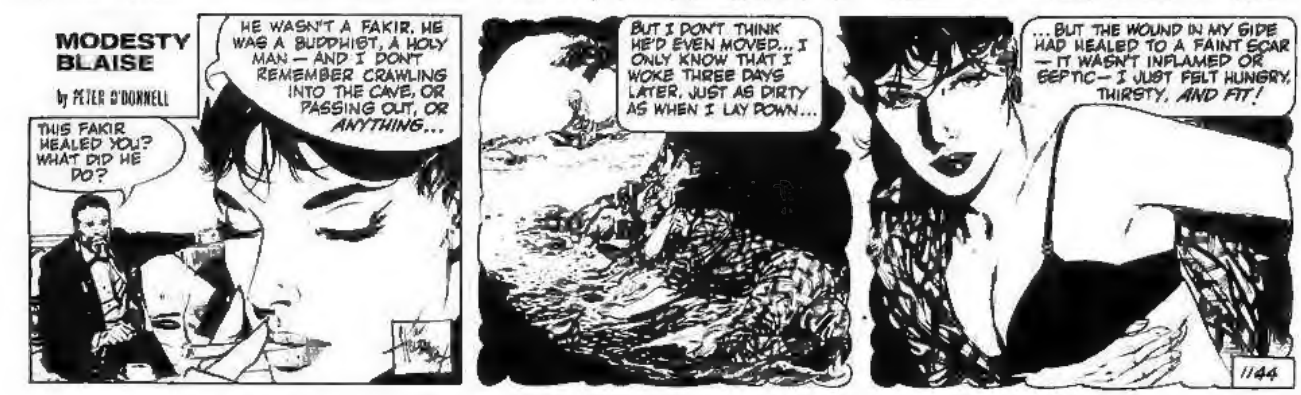
VAUDEN!

1140


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN TIME PAST... MODESTY HUNTS DOWN A Network MAN WHO HAS BEEN RUNNING A VICE RACKET...
I'M HERE, VAUDEN — TALK FAST IF YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING TO SAY
AS VAUDEN DIES, HIS SECOND SHOT, UNAIMED, RICOCHETS FROM THE GROUND AND HITS MODESTY IN THE SIDE
1141

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
...SO VAUDEN WAS DEAD. BUT HIS BULLET HAD GONE THROUGH ME HERE, AND I WAS LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD...
BOTH PONIES HAD BEEN FRIGHTENED AND I COULDN'T CATCH THEM, SO IN THE END I CRAWLED ON DOWN TO THE STREAM...
I KNEW IT RAN DOWN TO THE VILLAGE, BUT THAT WAS FOUR MILES AWAY, AND I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH HOPE OF MAKING IT IN THAT SHAPE
1142

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY TELLS OF A NIGHT FOUR YEARS AGO...
MAN THERE... UNDER THE TREE...
COME, WOMAN... THOUGH YOUR TORN BODY FAILS, YOUR WILL CAN CARRY YOU YET A LITTLE FARTHER
ENTER MY HOME, SLEEP UPON MY BED... AND I, LAL, WILL MAKE YOU WELL, FOR IN TIME TO COME I SHALL HAVE NEED OF YOU
1143


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HE WASN'T A FAKIR. HE WAS A BUDDHIST, A HOLY MAN — AND I DON'T REMEMBER CRAWLING INTO THE CAVE, OR PASSING OUT, OR ANYTHING...
THIS FAKIR HEALED YOU? WHAT DID HE DO?
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'D EVEN MOVED... I ONLY KNOW THAT I WOKE THREE DAYS LATER, JUST AS DIRTY AS WHEN I LAY DOWN...
...BUT THE WOUND IN MY SIDE HAD HEALED TO A FAINT SCAR — IT WASN'T INFLAMED OR SEPTIC — I JUST FELT HUNGRY, THIRSTY, AND FIT!
1144

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
SPEAK NOT YOUR THANKS, WOMAN... I HAVE SAVED YOU FROM DEATH, AND SO THE BOND IS FORGED WHICH WILL BRING YOU TO ME WHEN THE BUD OF TIME HAS FLOWERED
I—
TAKE THIS... AND WHEN YOU NO LONGER SEE THE GREEN BEETLE TRAPPED IN AMBER, COME TO ME HERE
AS MODESTY ENDS HER STORY...
I'VE BEEN OUT EAST TOO LONG TO BE SURPRISED BY ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS — WILL YOU GO?
I'D BE DEAD BUT FOR HIM — OF COURSE I'LL GO
1145

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU KNOW, THE IDEA OF KARMA IS TO ACQUIRE MERIT, THEN YOU CAN 'OP OFF THE WHEEL OF LIFE WITHOUT KEEPIN' ON BEING REINCARNATED, SEE?
BUT ALL ACTION KEEPS THE WHEEL GOING, THAT'S WHY THESE 'OLY BLOKES JUST SIT AN' THINK — IF I'D DONE THAT WHEN I WAS NELL GWYNN, I DON'T SUPPOSE I'D BE 'ERE NOW
ANYWAY, I RECKON YOUR 'OLY BLOKE'S GOT TO DO SOMETHING, PRINCESS, BUT 'E SAW IT COMING AN' LAID THINGS ON SO ME DO IT FOR 'IM!
WE? ALL RIGHT, I'LL BOOK FOR TWO, WILLIE
1146

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IF YOU'RE GOING ON THIS JAUNT, COUNT ME IN — I KNOW THE COUNTRY
YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT, MARK... IF THE JAUNT BECAME A CAPER YOU'D HAVE TO DO THINGS MY WAY
WEE-ELL, THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN GOOD ENOUGH FOR WILLIE. SO I'LL PLAY ALONG
THE THING IS, IF A SNAKE BITES ME YOU MUSTN'T ARGUE ABOUT WHO GETS THE PRIVILEGE OF SUCKING THE WOUND, SEE?
WE'LL JUST USE A RED-HOT KNIFE BLADE, WILLIE LOVE
1147

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NORTH OF DHIRA, TEN DAYS AFTER MODESTY HAS RECEIVED THE STRANGE AND MYSTICAL SUMMONS
WELL, THE VILLAGERS SAY THAT LAL, THE WISE ONE, IS STILL THERE UNDER HIS PIPUL TREE
YES... NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED — EXCEPT THAT THERE'S SOMEBODY WITH HIM NOW
THREE STRANGERS, MASTER!
TWO STRANGERS... THE WOMAN IS KNOWN TO ME
1148

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BEFORE MODESTY CAN UTTER A GREETING —
YOU HAVE ANSWERED MY CALL, WOMAN, FOR SO IT WAS WRITTEN... BUT SPEECH IS THE ENEMY OF MEDITATION, AND I HAVE NO WORDS FOR YOU
THIS ONE WILL SPEAK FOR ME AND TELL OF THE TASK THAT WILL REPAY YOUR DEBT
THE HOLY MAN WITHDRAWS INTO DEEP MEDITATION
WHAT IS THE TASK?
TO JOURNEY INTO MY COUNTRY, TIBET... TO RETURN WITH 'The Black Pearl'
1149

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
GO INTO TIBET? IT'S UNDER CHINESE OCCUPATION NOW — MARTIAL LAW, MONASTERIES SHUT DOWN, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WIPED OUT —
LET HIM SAY HIS PIECE, MARK
THE DANGER IS GREAT, BUT YOU WILL HAVE HELP FROM THE KHAMBAS, THE GUERILLA WARRIORS...
...AND NOT ALL THE LAMASERIES ARE CLOSED — SOME REMAIN, BECAUSE THROUGH THEM THE CHINESE SOLDIERS HOPE TO WIN OBEDIENCE FROM THOSE OF OUR PEOPLE WHO STILL RESIST!
1150

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

LIKE THE DALAI LAMA HIMSELF, THE HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN IS A REFUGEE... YOU WILL KNOW THAT HE IS A REINCARNATION OF ALL PREVIOUS HIGH LAMAS OF TAHKSEN?

WE DID NOT KNOW THIS

STRANGE...! HOW CAN ANYONE NOT KNOW SUCH THINGS? BUT NO MATTER...

THE HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN IS OLDER EVEN THAN LAL, AND CLOSE TO DEATH NOW... THERE IS LITTLE TIME FOR YOU TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE

1151

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

IF WE HAVE TO GET INTO TIBET, OUR BEST WAY IS TO HEAD UP INTO MUSTANG AND JOIN ONE OF THE SALT CARAVANS THERE

SO IT IS ARRANGED! I AM TO GUIDE YOU TO THE BORDER

... WE HAVE WORD OF ALL THAT HAPPENS FROM REFUGEES WHO STILL ESCAPE THE CHINESE NET, AND WE KNOW THAT A KHAMBA BAND OF GUERILLAS WILL AWAIT YOU

TELL US MORE OF *THE BLACK PEARL* ... WHERE IS IT NOW, AND WHY MUST WE BRING IT SAFELY OUT OF TIBET?

1152

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

WHEN THE NINTH HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN DIES, THERE WILL LATER BE NEED TO SEEK FOR HIM IN HIS *NEW* INCARNATION

WE HAVE HEARD OF SUCH MATTERS...

... A CHILD WILL SHOW SUCH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE WAYS AND BELONGINGS OF THE OLD LAMA THAT HE MAY BE RECOGNISED AS THE RE-BORN

YES!

AND IT HAS LONG BEEN FORETOLD THAT RECOGNITION OF THE TENTH LAMA WILL SURELY BE MADE BY ... *THE BLACK PEARL*

1153

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

THE ABBOT OF SENDRING HAS KEPT *THE BLACK PEARL* SAFELY HIDDEN— HE WILL YIELD IT TO YOU ON SIGHT OF THIS TOKEN FROM MY MASTER

DO THE CHINESE ALSO SEEK THE PEARL?

URGENTLY! FOR WITH IT, AND AIDED BY A FEW TRAITOROUS MONKS, THEY PLAN TO RECOGNISE A *FALSE* INCARNATION OF THE TENTH LAMA— A PUPPET OF THEIR OWN!

THEN, IN TIME, THE FALSE ONE WILL CALL FOR AN END TO ALL RESISTANCE... AND HIS WORD WILL BE OBEYED, FOR HE WILL STAND IN HIGH AUTHORITY WITH OUR PEOPLE

1154

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU HAVE SPOKEN MUCH OF *THE BLACK PEARL*— BUT YOU HAVE NOT TOLD US WHAT IT IS

IT IS A—A VERY PRECIOUS THING... BUT FOR ME TO SPEAK OF IT CLOSELY WILL BRING EVIL UNDER THE LAW OF *KARMA*—AND IF YOU ARE CAUGHT, YOU CANNOT TELL WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW

BLIMEY, WE'VE GOT A DICEY CAPER ON 'ERE... LOOK, YOU PULL OUT, MARK— THERE'LL BE NO 'ARD 'FEELINGS

IF YOU BOTH PULLED OUT, I'D GO ON... FOR MY OWN REASONS

1155

THE BLACK PEARL

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

... SO IN TEN DAYS WE CROSS THE BORDER, MEET A BAND OF KHAMBAS, GET TO THIS MONASTERY AT SENDRING, SHOW THE SEAL TO THE ABBOT, AND 'E GIVES US THE BLACK PEARL...
THEN WE COME 'OME! IT'S A DAWDLE, PRINCESS — WHY NOT JUST LET ME AN' MARK SEE TO IT?
YOU FORGOT TO SAY THERE'LL BE AN ARMY OF CHINESE TRYING TO NOBBLE US THE WHOLE WAY, WILLIE LOVE — AND THEY PLAY VERY ROUGH
NO, I DIDN'T EXACTLY FORGET...
1156

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

FROM A MOUNTAIN RIDGE NORTH OF THE TIBETAN BORDER, TWO KHAMBA GUERILLAS GAZE DOWN
THERE IS THE CARAVAN... THE SERVANTS OF THE HIGH LAMA WILL LEAVE IT TONIGHT, AND SEEK US
THEY MUST BE MANY, AND WELL ARMED, IF THEY ARE TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE
IN THE EARLY HOURS...
Time to go, Mark — Willie's getting the ponies together
1157

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY, WILLIE AND MARK SCOBIE LEAVE THE CARAVAN
IF THE LAMA WAS RIGHT, WE'LL FIND THE KHAMBAS SOMEWHERE BEYOND THAT RIDGE
WHAT'S TIBETAN FOR 'DON'T SHOOT, I'M ONLY LOOKING FOR A LOST YAK'?
THEIR HEAD MAN, DJUT, SPEAKS SOME URDU AND ENGLISH — WE'LL HAVE TO GET BY WITH THAT
1158

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

AS DAWN COMES...
STAND! SAY WHO SENT YOU — AND WHOM YOU SEEK
WE ARE SENT BY THE HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN, WHOSE SEAL I HOLD... AND WE SEEK THE KHAMBA WARRIORS LED BY DJUT
A WOMAN!
THERE IS SOME TRICK HERE — LET US BRING THEM TO DJUT
1159

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE KHAMBA ENCAMPMENT...
THEY DON'T SEEM ALL THAT MATEY, PRINCESS
THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO TRUST ANYBODY TOO EASILY
THEIR LEADER HOLDS THE HIGH LAMA'S SEAL... BUT SHE IS A WOMAN!
OUR MASTER WOULD NEVER DECREE THAT I, DJUT, SHOULD SERVE UNDER A WOMAN!
1160

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS? YOU ARE SPIES!
NO! HERE IS THE HIGH LAMA'S SEAL — HE HAS SENT ME TO BRING THE BLACK PEARL SAFELY FROM SENDRING
YOU? A WOMAN?
HAVE YOU NO WOMEN WARRIORS, THEN?
I HAVE HEARD OF ONE, WHO WAS WITH ANOTHER BAND— BUT WOMEN WERE NOT MADE TO FIGHT!
SUPPOSE I AM A BETTER WARRIOR THAN YOU, DJUT?
1161

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU A GREATER WARRIOR THAN I...?
COCK YOUR RIFLE, DJUT— AND LET THIS CAN BE THE HEAD OF A CHINESE SOLDIER... YOUR TARGET
WILLIE FLINGS THE CAN HIGH, AND BEFORE DJUT CAN SIGHT HIS RIFLE—
I— IT WAS—
BAH! BECAUSE A WOMAN LEARNS A TRICK WITH A GUN SHE DOES NOT BECOME A WARRIOR!
1162

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU STILL THINK I AM UNFIT TO LEAD YOU?
YES! TO LIVE AND FIGHT IN THIS COUNTRY ONE MUST BE STRONG! HARD! CUNNING!
WILLIE GARVIN SPEAKS WITH GRAVE DIGNITY
DJUT...YOU ADDRESS ONE WHO IS A PRINCESS, SO YOU WILL PLEASE SPEAK WITH RESPECT— NOW CHOOSE YOUR STRONGEST MAN FOR HER TO FIGHT!
NO...
CHOOSE THREE, DJUT— YOUR HEAD IS THICK AND NEEDS STRONG PROOF
1163

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE WOMAN— HA-HA-HA! THE PRINCESS, HE CALLS HER, WILL FIGHT THREE MEN... HA-HAAA!
TRULY, IF SHE DEFEATS THEM I WILL CALL HER PRINCESS MYSELF, AND SHE SHALL LEAD US...
BUT IF SHE FAILS, IT WILL BE SURE PROOF THAT THESE THREE WERE NOT SENT BY OUR LORD OF TAHKSEN... AND THEY MUST DIE
1164

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THREE POWERFUL KHAMBAS CLOSE SLOWLY ROUND MODESTY BLAISE
SHE CAN'T TAKE THREE, WILLIE!
MAKE IT TWO — THERE'LL BE ONE GONE WHILE THEY'RE STILL THINKING SHE'S A PUSH-OVER...
...SEE?
1165

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
FOR A LONG MOMENT THE TWO REMAINING KHAMBAS ARE BENUMBED BY SHOCK...
...AND, WITH A SINGLE-LEG STOMACH THROW, MODESTY USES HER UNCONSCIOUS OPPONENT AS A MISSILE
EE-YAH!
1166

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY DISPOSES OF A SECOND OPPONENT
AHH..!
TEN-DAL HAS HER! WATCH THE BONE-CRUSHER NOW!
'OLD IT, MARK...
1167

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AS THE GREAT ARMS BEGIN TO TIGHTEN WITH BONE-CRUSHING POWER...
WATCH THIS, MARK... GRAPEVINE WITH ONE LEG, NOW A BIG SWEEP WITH THE OTHER FOR IMPETUS—
UUUHH!
1168

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE THREE-TO-ONE BATTLE IS OVER
IT IS PROOF ENOUGH, DJUT! TRULY OUR LORD OF TAHKBEN CHOSE WELL IN SENDING THIS WOMAN TO LEAD US—
DO NOT CALL HER WOMAN, FOOL! DID YOU NOT HEAR HER COURTIER SAY SHE IS A PRINCESS?
I HOPE I HAVE NOT HURT THIS ONE, DJUT—
PAH! TEN-DAL HAS A HEAD OF STONE— A BUCKET OF WATER WILL WAKE HIM! COME, PRINCESS, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS MUST REST AND EAT
1169

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IT IS NOT FITTING THAT THE PRINCESS SHOULD TEND A PEASANT LIKE TEN-DAL
SHE HAS HER OWN WAYS, DJUT
SO BE IT... WHAT ARE HER COMMANDS?
SHE WILL ASK YOU TO GUIDE US TO THE LAMASERY OF SENDRING
FIVE DAYS MARCH THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS— BUT THERE WILL BE MANY CHINESE SOLDIERS IN SENDRING
THEN WE MUST FIND A WAY TO BRING OUT THE BLACK PEARL BY STEALTH, DJUT— LET US TALK OF THIS AS WE EAT
1170

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE JOURNEY TO SENDRING BEGINS

HAVE THEY GOT SCOUTS OUT, MODESTY? THIS S GOOD AMBUSH COUNTRY

FORGET YOU TRAIN SOLDIERS, MARK — AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF REAL FIGHTING THESE KHAMBAG KNOW THE SCORE

ON THE RETURN JOURNEY WE SHALL BE PURSUED AND HUNTED, DJUT — SO WE MUST TRAVEL VERY FAST THEN

BUT PRINCESS, WE **CANNOT** TRAVEL FAST WITH **THE BLACK PEARL!**

1/71

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

A KHAMBA SCOUT GIVES WARNING...

PHEEE-EEE!

CHUTTA-CHUTTA!

WHAT—?

SOUNDS L KE AN AIRCRAFT OF SOME KIND, WILL E — TAKE COVER

EVERY YAK AND PONY CARRIES A ROLL OF CAMOUFLAGE NETTING...

...AND IN TWENTY SECONDS THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL APPEARS TO BE EMPTY

THESE BOYS ARE RED 'OT, PR NCESS — MIGHT NOT BE A TOUGH CAPER AFTER A...

THE SECOND HALF WILL BE — BUT I CAN'T FIND OUT **WHY**

1/72

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

A NIGHT HALT...

I DON'T GET T ... **WHY** CAN'T WE TRAVEL FULL SPEED ONCE WE'VE GOT **THE BLACK PEARL?**

THAT'S WHAT THE PRINCESS ASKED DJUT...

. BUT 'E WON'T SAY BECAUSE T BRINGS BAD **KARMA** TO TALK ABOUT IT

T BRINGS A DAMN SIGHT WORSE **KARMA** F YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT MODESTY?

SHE DOESN'T — AN' SHE'S ASLEEP... LET'S LEAVE THE WORRYING TILL WE KNOW WHAT TO WORRY ABOUT, MARK

1/73

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

DAWN. . AFTER FIVE DAYS OF HARD TRAVEL THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS

THERE LIES THE VILLAGE OF SENDRING AND THE MONASTERY ... SEE THE HUTS OF THE CHINESE SOLDIERS?

YES — AND THE R ARMOURED CARS... THEY'RE HERE IN STRENGTH, DJUT

THEY SAY GENERAL LI HIMSELF S HERE .HE S CALLED **THE BUTCHER** AND WITH GOOD CAUSE

THERE ARE TRAVELLERS MOVING TOWARDS THE VILLAGE... WILLIE AND ONE OF YOUR MEN MUST JOIN THEM, TO SEE HOW THE LAND LIES

1/74

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN SENDRING, GENERAL LI GIVES ORDERS

PEASANTS FROM FAR AND NEAR ARE GATHER NG N SENDR NG FOR THIS SUPERST TIOUS 'FESTIVAL OF THE EAGLE'. THAT IS GOOD. BUT LET NO MAN OR WOMAN **LEAVE** THE VILLAGE!

RUMOUR TELLS US THAT SOME FOOLS CALLED 'THE CHOSEN ONES' ARE COM NG TO TAKE AWAY **THE BLACK PEARL**... LET THEM TRY, AND **THEY** WILL GIVE US WHAT **WE** CANNOT FIND!

DRESSED AS PEASANTS, WILLIE GARVIN AND TEN-DAL SPEND THE DAY MAKING A CAREFUL RECONNAISSANCE

SOON BE SUNSET... WE'LL MOVE OUT WHEN IT'S DARK TEN-DAL

1/75

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BEYOND THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE
HALT
ALLO ERE'S TROUBLE
TEN-DAL SPEAKS HUMBLY
SILENCE!
SIR WE ARE POOR FARMERS WHO MUST RETURN—
NO INNOCENT FARMER WOULD LEAVE SANDRINE BEFORE TOMORROW'S 'FESTIVAL OF THE EAGLE'— PUT UP YOUR HANDS!
THEY MUST KNOW THERE'S A MOVE TO GET THE BLACK PEARL OUT...!
YOU ARE TO BE SEARCHED! STRIP YOU PEASANTS!
TAKE THIS OFFICER TEN-DAL!— I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO REACH HIM
THAT ONE IS NO TIBETAN—!
WILLIE'S BUNDLED JACKET HITS THE OFFICER FULL IN THE FACE, AND IN THE SAME INSTANT A KNIFE DROPS ONE OF THE SOLDIERS
77
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE'S SECOND KNIFE FINDS ITS TARGET AS TEN-DAL DIVES FOR THE CHINESE OFFICER . . .
DON'T LET HIM SHOUT TEN-DAL
HE WILL NEVER SHOUT AGAIN.
BLIMEY, THAT'S FOR SURE! BUT IF WE LEAVE 'EM LYING AROUND IT'LL START BIG TROUBLE.
79
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
PUT 'EM IN THE JEEP
THREE MINUTES LATER WILLIE STARTS THE JEEP AND BABBIE T SLOWLY INTO AN OVERTURN
WHAT WE DO WITH DEAD SOLDIERS, WILLIE?
ERE WE GO
MORE SOLDIERS WILL COME TO SEE— I THINK WE GO QUICK NOW, WILLIE!
CARELESS DRIVING LASTY ACCIDENT— THAT OUGHT TO COVER US
79
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
ANY SIGN OF THEM, MARK?
NO" YET BUT IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE MUCH...
THERE WAS A FIRE OUT IN THE VILLAGE AN HOUR AGO— A TRUCK BURNING, I THINK
THAT HAS THE GARV N TOUCH ABOUT IT.
...BUT WILLIE WOULDN'T START TROUBLE DOWN THERE WITHOUT A DAMN GOOD REASON— HE MUST HAVE RUN INTO
80

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK, WILLIE LOVE — COME AND EAT WHILE YOU TELL US THE SCORE
'ALLO, PRINCESS — BLIMEY, WE'RE 'UNGRY
WE 'AD TO SIGN OFF THREE CHINESE SOLDIERS, SO WE FIXED IT TO LOOK ACCIDENTAL — THE JEEP OVERTURNED AND CAUGHT FIRE
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SIGN THEM OFF?
THAT'S THE TROUBLE, PRINCESS — THEY KNOW SOMEONE'S TRYING TO GET THE BLACK PEARL! SO THEY'RE LETTING ANYBODY WALK INTO SENDRING — BUT YOU CAN'T GET OUT AGAIN!
1181

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU KNOW THE LAYOUT NOW, WILLIE — CAN WE GET INTO THE MONASTERY?
EASY, AFTER DARK — THERE'S MORE WINDOWS THAN I'VE GOT GIRLS' PHONE NUMBERS, PRINCESS
THAT'S PLENTY... YOU AND I GO DOWN TOMORROW FOR THE BIG FESTIVAL — AFTER DARK WE GET IN, FIND THE ABBOT, SHOW HIM THE HIGH LAMA'S SEAL, AND TAKE OVER THE BLACK PEARL...
...THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY OF GETTING OUT THROUGH THE PERIMETER GUARDS
BUT THAT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE, PRINCESS! YOU — YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND...
1182

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I AM MUCH TROUBLED... IF I SAY WHY YOU CANNOT BRING OUT THE BLACK PEARL IN THE WAY YOU PLAN, IT WILL MAKE VERY BAD KARMA FOR MY PEOPLE
BUT IF I DO NOT SAY, THEN YOU AND WILLIE WILL SURELY BE CAUGHT!
YOUR OWN PEOPLE COME FIRST, DJUT — DON'T BE TROUBLED ABOUT US
1183
AH, YOUR HEART IS GOOD, PRINCESS! AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DIE, YOU WILL GAIN MUCH MERIT, SO IN YOUR NEXT LIFE YOU WILL BE GREATER THAN A PRINCESS — A QUEEN, PERHAPS!

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BEFORE DAWN, MODESTY AND WILLIE MAKE READY TO JOIN THE TIBETANS STILL ARRIVING IN SENDRING FOR THE FESTIVAL...
WHY DO I HAVE TO STAY BEHIND?
BECAUSE THREE'S TOO MANY... BECAUSE ON A CAPER WILLIE'S MY OTHER HALF... AND BECAUSE YOU AGREED TO DO THINGS MY WAY, MARK
FOUR HOURS LATER...
TEN-DAL SAYS THERE'LL BE A BIG CROWD OUTSIDE THE MONASTERY ALL DAY, PRINCESS
GOOD... A CROWD'S THE BEST PLACE TO HIDE IN
1184

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE FESTIVAL OF THE EAGLE BEGINS... LONG HORNS SOUND, PRAYER-WHEELS TURN, AND DEMON-TRAPS ARE PLACED TO DRIVE AWAY EVIL SPIRITS
WILLIE AND MODESTY SIT AMONG THE CROWD
Ten-dal says there's a couple of hours of this, then some kind of demon dance then rites for good crops. Same for cattle then... I forget
It sounds like a long, noisy day
1185

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

THE LAMAS OF SENDRING BEGIN THE SEARCH FOR THOSE POSSESSED BY DEMONS.

This pit's just symbolic now, Princess - Ten-da! says they never nab anyone—

HAI! THESE TWO!

BLIMEY!

1186

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE ARE DRAGGED FORWARD, WHILE THE LAMAS BEAT AT THEM WITH STICKS TO DRIVE OUT DEMONS

Don't fight back! Not now!

BEFORE WILLIE CAN DRAW A KNIFE ..

HA! IT IS MANY YEARS SINCE THE LAMAS HAVE FOUND PEOPLE POSSESSED OF EVIL SPIRITS. BUT THE GOOD ABBOT WILL CLEANSE THEM

1187

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

UNRESISTING, MODESTY AND WILLIE ARE DRAGGED INTO THE MONASTERY

TAKE THEM TO THE ABBOT — QUICKLY!

OUR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SAY THAT THE RITE OF DRIVING OUT DEMONS IS NOW ONLY SYMBOLIC . SO THIS IS NO NORMAL OCCURRENCE

TAKE CHARGE HERE! I WILL REPORT TO GENERAL L.!

188

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE ABBOT OF SENDRING

RELEASE THE STRANGERS... AND LEAVE US

THEY BEAT THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF US — THEN BRING US STRAIGHT TO THE BLOKE WE WANT!

I HAVE THIS TO SHOW YOU

YES... THE SEAL OF MY MASTER, THE HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN .. I AM SORRY YOU HAVE SUFFERED DISCOMFORT, BUT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING YOU QUICKLY INTO THE MONASTERY

189

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

HOW DID YOUR LAMAS KNOW THAT WE WERE THE ONES YOU WERE WAITING FOR?

THAT? OH, YOU WILL SEE MUCH SUPERSTITION IN OUR LAND, CHILD... BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO HAVE THE INNER VISION OF THE THIRD EYE

THAT IS HOW MY LAMAS KNEW YOU, AND THAT IS HOW I KNOW THAT MY TIME IS SHORT... I COULD NOT WAIT FOR YOU TO COME TONIGHT, AS YOU PLANNED

AT THE ABBOT'S TOUCH A PANEL OF THE WALL HINGES BACK

FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL GIVE INTO YOUR CHARGE THE BLACK PEARL

1190

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE ABBOT OF SENDRING LEADS THE WAY THROUGH A LONG, WINDING TUNNEL
WE MUST'VE COME 'ALF A MILE ALREADY...
OLD ONE... WHAT WAS YOUR MEANING WHEN YOU SAID THAT YOUR TIME IS SHORT?
I HAVE COLLABORATED WITH THE CHINESE SOLDIERS, BUT AT LAST THEY BEGIN TO DOUBT MY LOYALTY... AND SOON THEY WILL KNOW I HAVE DECEIVED THEM!
IN GENERAL LI'S HEADQUARTERS...
YOU SAW TWO PERSONS TAKEN INTO THE MONASTERY TO BE CLEANSED OF DEMONS? AND YOU DID NOT INVESTIGATE?
1191
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
STOP THE FESTIVAL! SEIZE THAT TREACHEROUS PIG OF AN ABBOT — AND THE TWO WHO WERE TAKEN INTO THE MONASTERY! THAT MUST BE WHERE THE BLACK PEARL IS HIDDEN!
THE LONG TUNNEL THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN ENDS IN A CAVE WHICH LIES OPEN TO DAYLIGHT
NOW I PLACE IN YOUR CHARGE THE BLACK PEARL SHE IS VERY GENTLE, VERY OBEDIENT
SHE?
COME, LITTLE ONE HERE ARE YOUR NEW GUARDIANS
OH, BLIMEY — NO!
1192
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THIS EXISTENCE, YES, CHILD...
THE BLACK PEARL IS... A BEAR?
...TWO YEARS AGO SHE CAME FROM THE HILLS TO THIS MONASTERY, AND WAS RECOGNISED — SHE IS THE REINCARNATION OF THE NOBLE SISTER OF THE SEVENTH HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN!
BY OUR INNER VISION WE KNOW THAT SHE CHOSE TO BE REBORN AS THIS LOWLY CREATURE — BECAUSE ONLY THUS COULD SHE PERFORM A SACRED DUTY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
COULDN'T BE PLAINER...
1193
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
CHINESE SOLDIERS BREAK UP THE FESTIVAL AND INVADE THE MONASTERY
FIND THE ABBOT!
AND IN A CAVE HALF A MILE AWAY
WE CAN'T GET AWAY THROUGH SENDRING — NOT WITH THE BLACK PEARL
NO. THIS CAVE LIES ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE — IN FOUR HOURS YOU WILL BE WITH YOUR KHAMBA FRIENDS
1194
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IT HAS LONG BEEN FORETOLD THAT WHEN THE HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN DIES AND IS REBORN HE WILL BE RECOGNISED BY A SHE-BEAR.
...THAT IS WHY HIS SISTER IN A FORMER LIFE HAS TAKEN THIS LOWLY REINCARNATION — AS THE BLACK PEARL SHE WILL RECOGNISE HER OWN BROTHER IN HIS NEXT EXISTENCE
THE CHINESE MUST CAPTURE OR DESTROY THE BLACK PEARL IF THEY HOPE TO SET UP AN IMPOSTOR AS THE NEW HIGH LAMA. GUARD HER WELL, CHILD!
1195

THE BLACK PEARL

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY AND WILLIE MOVE OUT FROM THE CAVE WITH THE BLACK PEARL
COME ON SWEET EART— YOU'RE GOING NICE WALKIES WITH JNCLE WILLIE
SHE'S NICE AN' FR ENDLY, PRINCESS!
But this bit about 'er being a lama's sister reincarnated sounds a bit nutty, eh?
MAYBE...
MOST BELIEFS SOUND NUTTY IF YOU TH NK ABOUT THEM — BUT I'M JUST PAYING A DEBT THE WAY T'S BEEN CALLED, SO I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE ABOUT THE CURRENCY, WILL E
1196
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HUSTLE HER ALONG AS FAST AS YOU CAN, WILL E
SURE PRINCESS — BUT WHAT'S THE RUSH? THE CHINESE ARE BUSY IN SENDRING, AND WE'RE IN THE CLEAR
HIM, OR SOMEBODY
THEY'LL BE BUSY ALL RIGHT— THAT OLD MAN HAS GONE BACK TO DIE, AND HE KNOWS IT... BUT THEY'LL MAKE HIM TALK FIRST
IN THE MONASTERY...
SO OUR FR END THE ABBOT HAS REAPPEARED / TAKE HIM FOR QUESTION NG—AND THE REST OF THESE BUFFOONS, IN CASE THE OLD FOOL DIES TOO QUICKLY!
197
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WHERE THE KHAMBAG WAIT IN THE MOUNTAINS...
A MIRACLE! THEY HAVE BROUGHT THE BLACK PEARL SAFELY OUT OF SENDRING!
MY GOD—A BEAR!
THE CHINESE WILL SOON BE HUNTING US DILT, AND E ONLY ONE A RCRAFT SPOTS US WE ARE FIN SHED — SO WE MUST HIDE BY DAY AND MOVE ALWAYS BY NIGHT
S... IS THAT THING SAFE?
WELL, SHE MIGHT GET STROPPY IF YOU GO ON CALL NG 'ER A 'THING' — BUT SHE'S GOT A LOVELY NATURE, 'AVEN'T YOU, GEL?
198
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
ON THE FIRST NIGHT'S MARCH — A TEN — MINUTE
IT'S A LONG WAY HOME... I WISH WE COULD MOVE A BIT FASTER
WE CAN'T WITH THE BLACK PEARL — WILLIE'S DOING WONDERS WITH HER AS IT IS
I DUNNO F YOU REAL SE T, PEARL BUT YOU RE WHAT THEY CALL A H MA-LAYAN BEAR — SO YOU LIVE MOSTLY ON TERM.TES, SEE? BUT WE'VE GOT NO TERM TES 'ANDY...
SO YOU'LL AVE TO MAKE DO WITH SHARING UNCLE WILLIE'S MEAT AND VEG — EXCUSE FINGERS
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AFTER THREE NIGHTS OF SLOW TRAVEL ..
MORE SEARCH PLANES EVERY DAY..
YES — IT'S JUST AS WELL OUR CAMOLFLAGE IS GOOD
THE BUTCHER, I WILL NOT LET THE BLACK PEARL SLIP EASILY THROUGH HIS FINGERS
'OLD STILL, PEARL... IF THEM CHINESE CATCH YOU THEY'LL WORK IT SO YOU RECOGNISE A STOOGE FOR THE NEXT HIGH LAMA INSTEAD OF YOUR BROTHER, SEE?
1200

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SEVENTY MILES FROM THE BORDER...

WAKE UP, WILLIE LOVE— IT'S DUSK

'ALLO, PRINCESS— TIME TO GET MOVING, EH?

AS SOON AS YOU CAN PERSUADE YOUR LADY FRIEND

COME ON PEARL, ME OLD DARLING— UNCLE WILLIE'S GOT SOME NICE YAK LIVER FOR YOUR BREAKFAST

1201

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AN ADVANCE SCOUT BRINGS BACK NEWS

WHAT DOES HE SAY, DJUT?

THERE HAS BEEN FIGHTING AHEAD, PRINCESS— THE CHINESE HAVE DEFEATED A KHAMBA BAND LED BY MY FRIEND DA-RANG

A MILE ALONG THE TRAIL...

TIED TO A POST THEN BAYONETED

IT IS DA-RANG... THIS IS HOW THE BUTCHER MAKES AN EXAMPLE OF THOSE WHO FIGHT AGAINST HIM

1202

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THAT MAKES EIGHT SO FAR, PEARL..

AT INTERVALS ALONG THE TRAIL, MORE BAYONETED PRISONERS STAND AS WARNINGS

THIS ONE IS NOT SO LONG DEAD, DJUT

NO MORE THAN A FEW HOURS, I THINK— THAT MEANS THE CHINESE ARE NOT FAR AHEAD OF US

YES, BUT THEY WILL BE CAMPED IN THE MAIN VALLEY, PRINCESS...

IF WE TAKE THE SMALL VALLEY WE SHALL PASS THEM UNSEEN

I WANT TO DO MORE THAN THAT...

1203

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

DAWN...

ONLY A SMALL DETACHMENT, LEFT TO KILL OFF THE PRISONERS AND SET THEM UP AS EXAMPLES...

I WOULD GIVE AN ARM TO DESTROY THOSE PIGS....!

BUT WE DARE NOT MAKE AN AMBUSH, PRINCESS— EVEN THE SOUND OF SHOOTING MIGHT MEAN DANGER FOR THE BLACK PEARL

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, DJUT...

...THEY STILL HAVE ONE PRISONER LEFT TO BAYONET

1204

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IF WE FIRE ON THE CHINESE, WE MAKE DANGER FOR THE BLACK PEARL! I WILL NOT HAVE IT SO, PRINCESS!

THERE MAY BE NO NEED FOR SHOOTING

AH! HOW ELSE CAN WE ATTACK? I TELL YOU ONE THING— YOU CANNOT ACT ALONE, AND I WILL NOT LET MY MEN HELP IN THIS!

NO...?

IF YOU DON'T DO WHAT THE PRINCESS SAYS, DJUT— I DON'T MOVE! SO WOULD ANYBODY LIKE TO TRY COAXING MY FRIEND PEARL AWAY FROM 'ER UNCLE WILLIE?

1205

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
COME, NOBLE LADY... DJUT WILL TAKE YOU TO SAFETY. COME NOW—
UHH!
THAT'S RIGHT, PEARL, YOU TELL 'IM!
SEE? SHE WON'T MOVE WITHOUT ME— I RECKON THAT SHOWS SHE WANTS YOU TO DO LIKE THE PRINCESS SAID, DJUT, AND TRY SAVING THAT PRISONER THE CHINESE 'VE GOT
1206

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
DJUT YIELDS...
IT SEEMS THAT THE BLACK PEARL HERSELF WISHES US TO DO THIS FOOLISH THING, AS THE PRINCESS COMMANDS...
GOOD! LET US GO AND KILL THE CHINESE!
YES— BEFORE THEY KILL THAT LAST PRISONER
CHOOSE TWO MEN, DJUT, AND TAKE US BY THE TRAIL WHICH WILL BRING US INTO THE VALLEY AHEAD OF THE SOLDIERS
1207

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NO, MUCH CLOSER, DJUT...
IT WILL BE TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE CHINESE PASS BELOW— WE CAN LIE HERE IN AMBUSH
... SHOOTING MIGHT BRING OTHER SOLDIERS, SO WE MUST FIGHT WITHOUT GUNS
THE AMBUSH IS SET...
ALL RIGHT, TEN-SHAN, I'VE GOT THE ENDS OF THE ROPE— NOW LIE DOWN AND ACT DEAD LIKE WILLIE
1208

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE CHINESE DETACHMENT HALTS
MORE KHAMBAS! OUR MAIN COLUMN HAS FOUND AND KILLED THEM!
A GOOD PLACE TO KILL THIS ONE!
They are unready with their guns— as the Princess said
1209

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
ROPE THE PRISONER WITH THESE OTHER REBELS!
UHH!
WILLIE'S KNIFE DROPS THE LEADER, AND THE REST OF THE 'DEAD' SPRINGS TO LIFE
1210

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
KILL THE PRISONER— UHH!
A BAYONET IS RAISED FOR A VICIOUS THRUST...
... BUT MODESTY VAULTS A RIDERLESS PONY AND...
12/1
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE, MODESTY AND HER COMPANIONS FIGHT TO FINISH THE BATTLE BEFORE A SHOT CAN BE FIRED
WILLIE! ON YOUR RIGHT! DON'T LET HIM GET CLEAR!
USED BOTH ME KNIVES...!
12/2
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
ONE CHINESE SOLDIER HAS BROKEN CLEAR...
AND WILLIE, IN PURSUIT, SLIPS ON A PATCH OF MOSS
OH, MY GOD..
AH! NOW—!
12/3
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BROUGHT DOWN BY A PATCH OF SLIPPERY MOSS, WILLIE GARVIN SEES THE HEAVY REVOLVER SWING UP TO THE AIM...
WILLIE'S SUNK—!
LOOK! BEHIND HIM—
THE BLACK PEARL SWINGS A MIGHTY PAW
12/4
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE SINGLE TERRIBLE BUFFET FROM THE BEAR'S PAW IS A DEATH BLOW
PEARL!
YOU WICKED OLD DARLING... BLIMEY, IF YOU'D STAYED PUT LIKE I SAID, YOUR UNCLE WILLIE WOULD BE WRAPPED ROUND A BULLET BY NOW!
WELL...! I SEE YOU'RE THE KIND THAT HIDES BEHIND A WOMAN'S SKIRTS, WILLIE BOY
SURE— DON'T KNOCK IT BEFORE YOU TRY IT
LOVELY RIGHT 'OOK SHE'S GOT, EH?
12/5

THE BLACK PEARL

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I THANK YOU FOR SAVING OUR FRIEND WILLEE, NOBLE LADY
DJUT!
THIS PRISONER IS A GIRL— DO YOU KNOW HER?
I HAVE HEARD THAT A GIRL FOUGHT WITH DA-RANG'S BAND... HER NAME WAS—
SHUEN! YOU'RE... ALIVE!
M-Mark...?
12/6
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IT MUST BE THE GIRL HE TOLD ME ABOUT...
SHUEN...
THEY WERE IN LOVE— I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT UNTIL NOW HE THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD
SHE CAME PRETTY CLOSE
WE MUST GO QUICKLY TO WHERE MY PEOPLE HAVE MADE CAMOUFLAGED CAMP, PRINCESS— WE DO NOT WANT SEARCH PLANES TO FIND US
IT DEPENDS ON THE KIND OF PLANE, DJUT...
12/7
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU CAME OUT OF TIBET AS A REFUGEE?
YES... IT WAS THEN I MET MARK... FOR A LITTLE WHILE WE WERE VERY HAPPY
BUT A SEER TOLD ME THAT BY THE LAW OF KARMA I SHOULD RETURN TO TIBET AND FIGHT THE INVADERS— I ...I LEFT MARK A MESSAGE TO SAY WHAT I HAD DONE
HELICOPTER, WILLEE!
GOOD— I'LL TELL THE PRINCESS
12/8
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HELICOPTER QUARTERING THIS AREA, PRINCESS
THANKS, WILLIE— TELL DJUT TO GET HIS MEN READY...
...WE'LL MOVE INTO POSITION AS SOON AS IT'S OUT OF SIGHT ON THIS SWEEP
You knocking 'er out?
Yes... tell Mark, he'll know why
12/9
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IT'S NO GOOD, WILLIE... SHUEN BELIEVES THAT BY THE LAW OF KARMA SHE HAS TO STAY AND FIGHT IN TIBET— YOU CAN'T CHANGE THAT BELIEF
WE CAN TAKE HER OUT, BUT SHE'LL COME BACK
YOU CAN NEVER TELL— LET'S START BY GETTING 'ER OUT, ANYWAY
SIX OF DJUT'S SMALLEST MEN HAVE PUT ON THE UNIFORMS TAKEN FROM THE DEAD CHINESE SOLDIERS...
THEY DO NOT LIKE THIS, PRINCESS!
THEY WILL
12/20

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE SEARCH HELICOPTER CRUISES OVER A NETWORK OF RIDGES AND VALLEYS

WAIT! A SIGNAL— THERE!

A DETACHMENT OF OUR OWN MEN—AND THEY HAVE A BEAR WITH THEM!

IT CAN ONLY BE THE BLACK PEARL! TAKE US DOWN!

1221

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE HELICOPTER DESCENDS

REMEMBER... WE SHOOT ONLY IF WE HAVE TO

TWO SOLDIERS COMING OUT— PILOT AND ANOTHER STILL INSIDE... THE UNIFORMS WON'T FOOL 'EM ONCE THEY SEE THOSE KHAMBA DIALS

THE SMOKE HELPS...

... BUT LET'S DO THIS FAST!

1222

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU HAVE FOUND THE BLACK PEARL!

YES...

... BUT NOT FOR YOU! MAKE ONE MOVE AND YOU DIE... A SMALL SHIVER WILL DO!

KHAMBAS!

MODESTY, WILLIE AND MARK REACH THE HELICOPTER

One crouched in the doorway— get him before he starts wondering

1223

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE'S HAND SNAKES OUT AND CATCHES THE SOLDIER'S ANKLE

AAH!

BOOST ME, MARK

MODESTY FLIES OVER MARK'S HEAD IN A CLEAN DIVE THROUGH THE LOW DOORWAY

1224

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

DJUT AND HIS MEN WATCH THE SCENE IN THE VALLEY BELOW...

THE PRINCESS IS INSIDE THE HELICOPTER NOW!

A JET OF TEAR GAS BURSTS FROM MODESTY'S LIPSTICK HOLDER...

1225

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

OKAY, PRINCESS?
YES
GET HIM OUT, WILLIE, AND HAVE A LOOK AT THE CONTROLS AS SOON AS THE TEAR GAS CLEARS
THE HELICOPTER IS TAKEN! BRING SHUEN AND THE BLACK PEARL
1226

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE STUDIES THE CONTROLS OF THE HELICOPTER
CAN YOU FLY HER, WILLIE LOVE?
WELL... I WOULDN'T BE DOGMATIC ON THAT, JUST OPTIMISTIC
GOOD ENOUGH... CAN YOU LEND MARK A HAND WITH THE BLACK PEARL NOW?
...SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO FANCY GETTING ABOARD
I'LL 'AVE A WORD WITH 'ER, PRINCESS
1227

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

IT'S NO GOOD LICKIN' MY EAR, PEARL—YOU'VE REALLY 'URT ME NOW, YOU DON'T TRUST YOUR UNCLE WILLIE
I'LL GO AND FIND ANOTHER BEAR—A NICE BEAR, WHO'LL BE GLAD TO COME FLYING WITH ME
MY GOD, SHE'S CLIMBING ABOARD!
AHH... SURELY SHE HAS BEEN WILLEE'S WOMAN IN SOME INCARNATION LONG PAST
1228

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

IT IS SAD YOU MUST GO SO QUICKLY, PRINCESS—WE HAVE YET TO KILL THE CHINESE PRISONERS
YES, YOU MUST DO THAT...
...IF YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF ACTING IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY DO
BUT IF YOU LET THEM GO FREE, THEIR REPORT WILL MAKE VERY BIG TROUBLE FOR GENERAL LI, THE BUTCHER
GOODBYE, DJUT
1229

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE PILOTS THE HELICOPTER THROUGH THE MAZE OF VALLEYS, HEADING FOR THE BORDER
WILL SHE BE ALL RIGHT?
SHE IS ALL RIGHT... IF I HADN'T PUT HER TO SLEEP SHE'D BE ON THE MARCH WITH DJUT AND HIS MEN BY NOW
MAYBE SHE'LL STAY WITH YOU THIS TIME, MARK
NO... I CAN'T WIN AGAINST THE WHEEL OF KARMA... SHE'LL GO BACK
1230

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

ALL RIGHT, TAKE US DOWN BY THAT VILLAGE, WILLIE
AFTER A TWO-HOUR FLIGHT...
CROSSED THE BORDER FIFTY MILES BACK— BUT WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON JUICE
AS MARK LIFTS HER DOWN FROM THE HELICOPTER, SHUEN'S EYES OPEN
MARK...? WHERE ARE WE?
SAFELY OUT OF TIBET, SWEETHEART
WE'RE GOING WALKIES IN INDIA NOW, PEARL GEL — IT'S A BIG 'OT PLACE
AND WE'RE BEING MET, WILLIE — LOOK
1231

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

Blimey, it's the Lama who sent us to fetch you, Pearl—with a couple of mates
THE VILLAGE HEADMAN HAS MADE READY HUTS WHERE YOU MAY REST
YOU EXPECTED US? HERE?
LAL, THE WISE ONE, PIERCED THE VEIL OF TIME 'AND TOLD US THAT YOU WOULD COME TO THIS PLACE — WITH THE BLACK PEARL
YOU'D BETTER LET ME TELL HER, SHE DOESN'T TRUST STRANGERS!
AHH... NOBLE LADY! WE ARE YOUR SERVANTS, SENT BY YOUR BROTHER, THE HIGH LAMA OF TAHKSEN—
1232

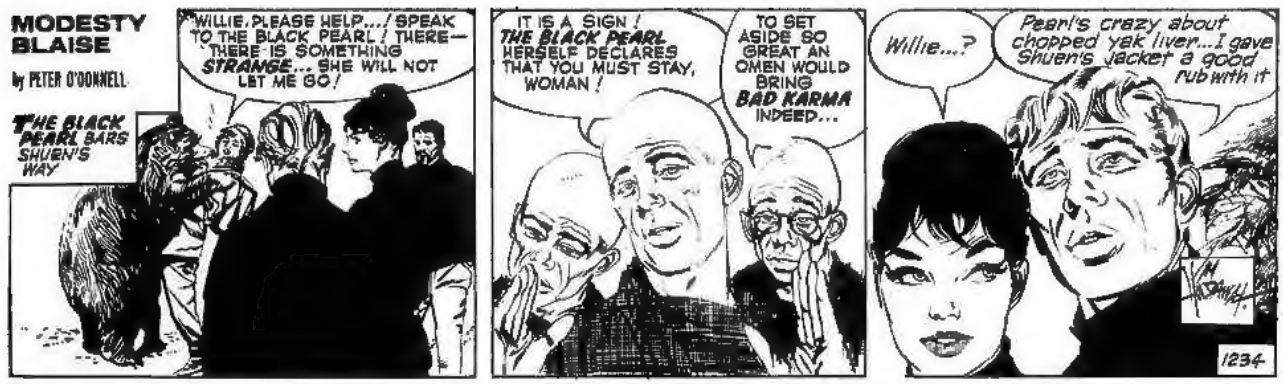
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE ESCAPE FROM TIBET...
IT IS WRITTEN THAT I MUST GO BACK, MARK... AND I WILL GO NOW, FOR THE LONGER I WAIT, THE HARDER IT WILL BE
SHUEN, PLEASE—!
IF A SEER TOLD HER SO, THEN THAT'S 'OW IT'S GOT TO BE, MARK! IT'S JUST... WELL, KARMA!
COME ON, SHUEN, WE'LL SEE YOU ON YOUR WAY
NOW JUST WHAT'S YOUR FRIEND WILLIE UP TO, PEARL...?
1233

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


THE BLACK PEARL BARS SHUEN'S WAY
WILLIE, PLEASE HELP...! SPEAK TO THE BLACK PEARL! THERE— THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE... SHE WILL NOT LET ME GO!
IT IS A SIGN! THE BLACK PEARL HERSELF DECLARES THAT YOU MUST STAY, WOMAN!
TO SET ASIDE SO GREAT AN OMEN WOULD BRING BAD KARMA INDEED...
Willie...?
Pearl's crazy about chopped yak liver... I gave Shuen's jacket a good rub with it
1234

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE LAMAS HAVE GONE... TAKING THE BLACK PEARL WITH THEM
OH, MARK... I AM SO HAPPY THAT IT IS MY KARMA TO STAY WITH YOU, TO BE WITH YOU...
FOR ALWAYS, SHUEN...
I LIKE A BIT OF ROMANCE... DEAD CRAFTY, THE WAY I FIXED IT FOR 'EM, EH, PRINCESS?
THE TRUE GARVIN TOUCH... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GET FOR FIXING THE WHEEL OF KARMA...
LET'S HOPE YOU HAVEN'T MADE TROUBLE FOR YOURSELF NEXT TIME ROUND, WILLIE LOVE!
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